

On page 1, before the first full paragraph, please amend the section heading

"TECHNICAL FIELD" to read as follows:

A2 **1. Field of the Invention**

On page 1, before the second full paragraph, please amend the section heading

"BACKGROUND ART" to read as follows:

A3 **2. Description of Related Art**

Please delete the paragraph bridging pages 1 and 2 and insert the following replacement paragraph:

The upper end portions of a pair of stays 105a and 105b which are disposed at a specified interval are connected to substantially the central portion of the aforementioned member main body, and the lower portions of the stays 105a and 105b are connected to the floor part (not shown in the figures) of the aforementioned vehicle. The member main body 101 and the stays 105a and 105b are connected by welding, with consideration being given to the ease of installation on the vehicle. Furthermore, the pair of stays 105a and 105b are connected to each other at intermediate points by a connecting member 104 in order to provide reinforcement, i.e., in order to prevent twisting during the mounting of the stays on the vehicle, etc.

On page 4, before the first paragraph, replace the section heading as follows:

A5 **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

On page 4, please delete the first paragraph and insert the following replacement paragraph:

In order to achieve the abovementioned object, the present invention is an instrument panel supporting member structure including: a main body constituted by a pipe which is arranged in a lateral direction and whose ends are connected to right and left front

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pillars; a steering bracket positioned on a driver's seat side for supporting a steering column; a bracket connected to a dash panel; and a stay positioned substantially on a central portion and connected to a floor part. The pipe constituting the main body is integrally formed with joining parts by crush-molding, the joining parts being joined to the front pillars.

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On page 5, please amend the section heading "BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION" to read as follows:

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

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On page 8, please delete the first full paragraph and insert the following replacement paragraph:

Furthermore, a reinforcing member 4 which acts as a beam is connected between a point in the vicinity of the upper end of the stay 5 and a point in the vicinity of one of the steering brackets 3 of the member main body 1. As is shown in Figs. 3 and 5, this reinforcing member 4 has a U-shaped or rectangular cross-sectional shape, and both ends of this reinforcing member are respectively welded to the member main body 1 and stay 5 at the points of contact.

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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel original claims 1-4 and rewrite them as new claims 5-10 as follows:

5. An instrument panel supporting member structure comprising:

a main body constituted by a pipe, the pipe arranged in a lateral direction and having ends connected to right and left front pillars;

at least one steering bracket positioned on a driver's seat side for supporting a steering column;

a bracket connected to a dash panel; and